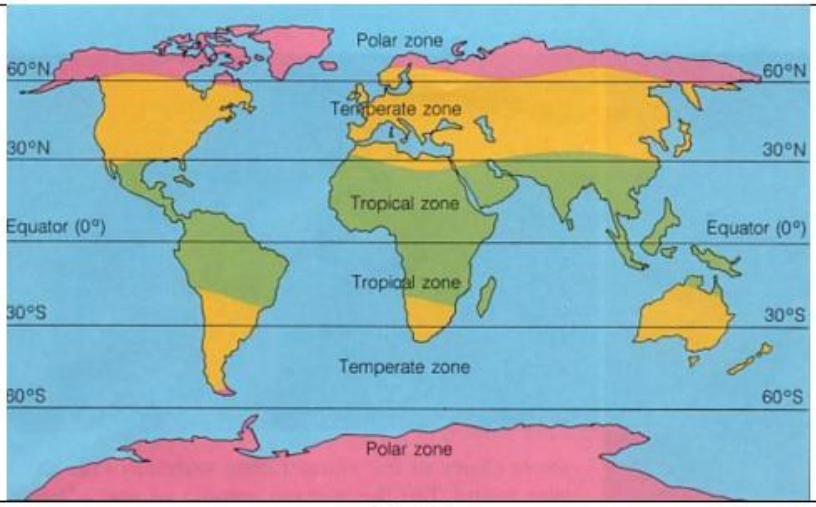
The World in Our Hands:

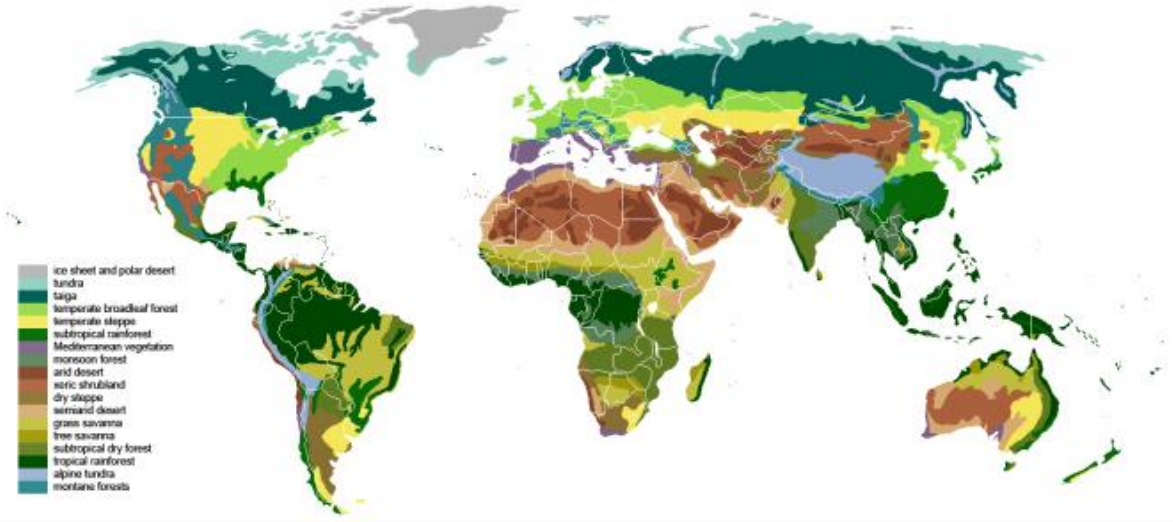
How can we protect our different biomes? Year 5

KEY VOCABULARY:	
WORDS	MEANING
Biome	geographical area defined by its climate, plant and animal life and the activities of the people who live there
Climate	weather patterns in a place over a long period, such as seasonal rainfall, sunshine and temperatures
Desert	area with very little rain, extreme heat and/or cold, where few forms of life can survive
Drought	period with very little or no rain
Environment	conditions to which a plant, animal or person is adapted
Fauna	animals native to an area, such as birds, reptiles and insects
Flora	plants native to an area, such as trees, climbers, flowers and grasses
Grassland	large area covered with grasses
Rainfall	measured level of water that has fallen as rain, snow, sleet or hail in a given period
Temperature	measured level of heat or cold in the air
Tropical	to do with the region on either side of the Equator, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn
Tundra	land where the soil beneath the surface is frozen all year and trees cannot survive the low temperatures and short growing season
Vegetation belt	area where similar types of plant life grow, adapted to the conditions there
Weather	conditions in the atmosphere on a particular day, such as temperature, windiness, rainfall, hours of sunshine or cloud cover.

CLIMATE ZONES



BIOMES



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What's the difference between weather and climate?

- **Climate** is 'average weather'.
- Around the world there are different **climate zones**, where particular weather affects people, plants and animals. **Tropical**, **arid**, **Mediterranean**, **temperate** and **polar** are all names of different types of climate that occur in certain zones.

Is latitude important?

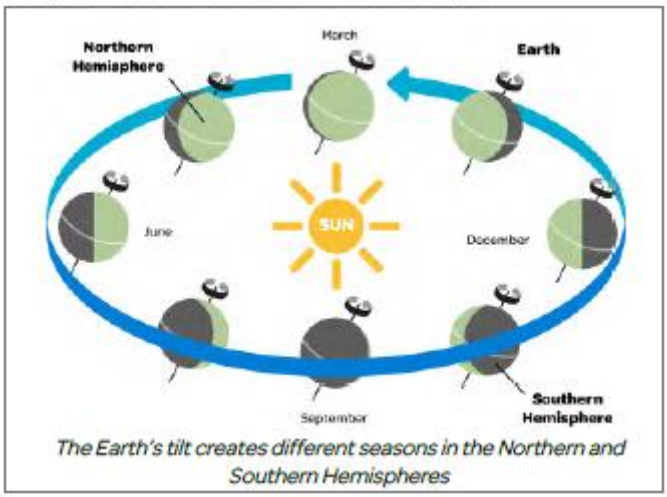
- The **Equator** is an invisible line that divides the world into two halves, or **hemispheres**.
- **Latitude** is the distance you live from the Equator. Latitude is measured in degrees – and you're either north or south of this imaginary line that wraps around the globe.
- Your location on the Earth's surface affects the amount of the sun's energy you receive across the year. In turn, this shapes the climate where you live. The sun's energy is more concentrated the closer you live to the Equator. This is because of the Earth's spherical shape.
- The differences in temperature in different places around the world affect the pattern of rainfall or **precipitation**.
- Meteorologists are interested in temperature and precipitation: they study how hot or cold it is in a place and how wet.

The Northern and Southern Hemispheres

- Places in the **Northern** and **Southern Hemispheres** can have a similar climate but their seasons are reversed.

The Earth's tilt

- The Earth travels around the sun. A full **orbit** takes a year. And as the Earth travels, it spins on its **axis**.
- But did you know that the Earth spins on an axis that is tilted? It is this **tilt** that means that the Northern and Southern Hemispheres experience seasons at different times of the year.



The Earth's tilt creates different seasons in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres